

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 03816 172138Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 SS-15 CPR-01 A-01
OPR-02 /032 W

-----005736 172152Z /61

O 172100Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO USDEL HARRIMAN AIRCRAFT

INFO 89TH MAW ANDREWS AFB MARYLAND IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3297

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS CANBERRA 3816

FOR PAT KENNEDY ABOARD SAM 86972

3.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (HARRIMAN, GOVERNOR AVERELL), AS

SUBJECT: MENZIES FUNERAL: DINNER IN MELBOURNE THURSDAY EVENING

1. VERY MUCH APPRECIATE INFOR YOUR USDEL 002

2. PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE HAS CALLED TO SAY PRIME MINISTER FRASSER LAYING ON DINNER AT STATLER HOTEL IN MELBOURNE THURSDAY EVENING MAY 18TH FOR PRINCIPALS ATTENDING FUNERAL. PM'S OFFICE APPEARS TO HAVE IN MIND ONLY GOVERNOR AND MRS. HARRIMAN AND AMBASSADOR AND MRS. ALSTON FROM AMERICAN PARTY. THEY UNDERSTAND CIRCUMSTANCES OF GOVERNOR'S LONG AND TIRING FLIGHT TO AUSTRALIA, AND FACT THAT THIS WOULD MEAN THURSDAY AFTERNOON DEPARTURE FROM CANBERRA TO MELBOURNE, OVERNIGHTING THERE, AND REMAINING THERE THROUGH FRIDAY BEFORE RETURNING TO CANBERRA FRIDAY EVENING. THEY NONETHELESS WOULD LIKE TO TENDER INVITATION. WE HAVE EXPLAINED THAT THIS IS A DECISION ONLY GOVERNOR AND MRS. HARRIMAN CAN MAKE, BUT SAID WE WOULD PUT IT TO YOU IMMEDIATELY. COMMENT. WE BELIEVE THAT, CIRCUMSTANCES BEING WHAT THEY ARE, GOVERNOR AND MRS. HARRIMAN SHOULD ELECT TO ATTEND OR NOT DEPENDING UPON THEIR OWN
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PREFERENCES. GOA WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO HAVE THEM ACCEPT, BUT WILL FULLY UNDERSTAND IF THEY CHOOSE NOT TO. FOR LOGISTICAL PURPOSES, ATTENDING WOULD REQUIRE DEPARTURE (WHEELS UP) FROM CANBERRA ABOUT 4:30PM, ARRIVAL IN MELBOURNE ABOUT 5:30PM, ARRIVAL AT HOTEL 6:30PM, WITH ABOUT AN HOUR TO REST AND CHANGE CLOTHES BEFORE DINNER. REST TIME IN MELBOURNE WOULD REQUIRE BACKDATING DEPARTURE FROM CANBERRA.

3. WHILE WE DO NOT NECESSARILY EXPECT AN ANSWER PRIOR TO
YOUR ARRIVAL IN CANBERRA, WE SHOULD PROBABLY LET PRIME
MINISTER'S OFFICE KNOW EARLY DURING COURSE OF THURSDAY
MORNING WHETHER GOVERNOR AND MRS. HARRIMAN WISH TO ACCEPT.
ALSTON

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NNN

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